

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

March 10, 2021 “The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places.” Issue XCX.9

Remembering Thomas Salamon '21



Photo courtesy Varun Yerramsetti '21
VARUN YERRAMSETTI '21
STAFF WRITER

Thomas Ryan Salamon '21 was an inspiration to hundreds of Hampden-Sydney men. Hailing from Fredrick, Maryland, Thomas was several steps ahead of his peers in every stage of academia. Whether it was middle school, high school, or Hampden-Sydney, it was always clear that Thomas was brighter than the most intelligent students. Thomas Salamon '21 was affectional-

ly known as “Thom” by most people at Hampden-Sydney. Thom was in a fraternity: Phi Gamma Delta. However, his friendships reached beyond their walls, and even beyond

Thom was an extremely driven individual who made a point of becoming involved on campus early.

the fraternity circle. Thom was an extremely driven individual who made a point of becoming involved on campus early. He became associated with the Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity as a freshman, and many

in the class of 2021 fondly remember creating their first “LinkedIn” accounts at the urging of Thom. His motivation for success followed him into the classroom, and nobody was surprised when Thom decided to pursue a double-major in Mathematical Economics and Applied Mathematics at Hampden-Sydney. Perhaps Thom still felt academically underchallenged at H-SC when he decided to attend the London School of Economics during the 2019-2020 academic year. His friends met his acceptance to the abroad program with jubilation, albeit with a tinge of dismay that they would experience a year at Hampden-Sydney without him. Thom had a positive influence on thousands of people overseas: a testament to the value he added to whichever community he was a part of. When he re-

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Pauley Science Center: Plan for Spring of 2022

GRAYSON HARMON '22
STAFF WRITER

At the intersection of College Road and Via Sacra, the \$30 million gift from Mr. Stanley F. Pauley via The Pauley Family Foundation is being used in the construction of the new science building on campus, the

project has been going on for months and the construction crews tasked with constructing the state-of-the-art science facility have been working tirelessly to provide Hampden-Sydney College students with an upgrade from Gilmer Hall. Although Pauley was set to open for instruction in the Spring of this year, the

ing would likely be pushed back to mid-spring, given the current rate of progress. Despite the delay, Hampden-Sydney is slowly but surely coming together in regard to the Pauley Science Center. Tradition will be preserved with its exterior, a brick-design, matching the majority of Hampden-Sydney’s distinguished features on campus. The exterior is not the only thing that Pauley has to offer, of course. The approximately 73,000-square-foot facility will provide Hampden-Sydney students with advanced equipment, including but not limited to, “state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, equipment, and interactive spaces to support first-class science teaching, re-

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Tradition will be preserved with its exterior, a brick design, matching the majority of Hampden-Sydney.

Pauley Science Center. Given that the project as a whole is predicted to cost \$40 million, Hampden-Sydney’s management are making efforts to make up the remaining \$10 million. This hefty

COVID-19 pandemic and recent inclement weather have delayed this plan. When asked to give an update on the project’s timeline, Dean Sabbatini said the current Spring of '22 open-

Ice, Ice, Baby: Legendary Ice Storm Rocks Campus

DRAKE KALINOWSKI '23
STAFF WRITER

The 2020-2021 academic school year has been strange for a myriad of reasons. COVID-19 sweeping through the nation drastically altered the way classes were conducted, social life as most students had known it seemed to disappear without any trace or hint of returning, and the very formation of the semesters themselves changed. However, another force besides the unseen menace of COVID-19 affected the Hampden-Sydney community recently. It was, of course, the ice storm that ravaged Virginia just two weeks ago. Robert Sabbatini, Dean of Students at H-SC, when asked about ways to prepare or lessen the effects of the storm, said that, “normally we call the big guy upstairs, but he just wasn’t pick-

ing up.” Jests aside, the college did what they could to mitigate damage, but a storm of such severity as Virginia saw two weeks ago exceeded everyone’s expectations. For two days after the storm hit, H-SC was without both power and heat. Students who ventured away from the college during the intercessory break between the ten- and four-week terms were encouraged to stay away, and those who remained were told to seek warmth where they could find it. For four days, Dominion Energy worked to restore power to campus. According to Sabbatini, the only reason power was restored so quickly compared to the rest of the county is that H-SC was a priority for Dominion. Sabbatini attributes this priority to the distance some students are from home, and the fact that many students have nowhere

to go in the event of power outages. Even as the campus’s lights flickered to life early Tuesday morning, vestiges of the storm’s damage remained. Power lines around campus were down, as were trees and numerous tree limbs. One such tree fell directly into Chalgrove Lake, while others lost limbs that landed on student vehicles in the Carpenter parking lots. Construction of the Pauley Science Center was delayed during the storm, but Sabbatini is optimistic that the lost progress can be made up during the fair-weather summers that Virginia often experiences. Beyond the damage to the trees around campus, there was no lasting damage to any campus infrastructure. Dean Sabbatini mentioned that the College’s adminis-

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Photo courtesy Patrick Garito '23

Opinion: H-SC Should Increase the Wages of Its Custodial Staff

VARUN YERRAMSETTI '21
STAFF WRITER

Every member of the Hampden-Sydney community is proud of our beautiful campus. When guests visit, they are consistently impressed by the quality of our maintenance and custodial service. Most people know that our campus is cared for by Buildings and Grounds. Affectionately known as “B&G” for short, the H-SC community sees their iconic white pickup trucks hustling around campus to address whatever

er maintenance issue arises. Most people that work in Buildings and Grounds live in and around Hampden-Sydney, in the greater Farmville and Prince Edward County area.

Buildings and Grounds have worked at Hampden-Sydney for several decades. These individuals have demonstrated their loyalty to the College at a greater degree than some past profes-

These individuals have demonstrated their loyalty to the College at a greater degree than some past professors, administrators, and even presidents.

B&G has a positive impact on the local community by hiring its people to work jobs on campus. Many employees of

sors, administrators, and even presidents. Despite their years of work for the College, Continue reading on page 2

PAGE TWO

Salamon, cont'd

turned to America for his senior year, Thom did not hesitate to bring his new-found knowledge into Hampden-Sydney's community. He noticed that H-SC's Ferguson Career Center and Flemming Center for Entrepreneurship lacked an "Innovation Lab," so he decided to create one.

With the help of Franz Gilbert '23 and Sam McLean '23, Thom convinced H-SC's administration to designate a room in the Brown Student Center's Flemming Center for Entrepreneurship for the "Hampden-Sydney Maker's Collective Innovation Lab." The Maker's Lab became one of Thom's many homes at Hampden-Sydney.

He remodeled the Maker's Lab from an empty room into one filled with 3D-Printers, Raspberry Pi computers, and other tools to facilitate any Hampden-Sydney student's transformation of their idea into reality.

As a Manager of the TigerFund, Hampden-Sydney's student-led equities portfolio with a valuation of over \$100k, Thom passionately

defended his uniquely effective investment strategy. As a manager of the Phi Beta Lambda pre-business fraternity, Thom taught many young Hampden-Sydney students about effectively networking with alumni.

Thomas Salamon was one of the rare students at Hampden-Sydney College who added value to multiple departments on the main floor of the Brown Student Center. Anyone who has seen the 1997 film *Good Will Hunting*

the College Church on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021.

The turnout was so large that people had to be turned away from the doors due to COVID protocol, but Dean Pantele made sure to set up a Zoom link to live-stream the proceedings. The Salamon family is thankful to everyone who attended, whether it was virtually or in-person. Thom was buried in his hometown of Fredrick, Maryland on Saturday, February 6th, 2021. Two

The loss of a fellow Hampden-Sydney brother affects every member of the community

will attest that Thom was smarter than Matt Damon's character in the movie.

Loss is not something the Hampden-Sydney Community historically handles well. The loss of a fellow Hampden-Sydney brother affects every member of the community in a different way. Our own chaplain Rev. Keith Leach led a remembrance service of Thom's life in

of his close friends from Fredrick organized a candlelight vigil in his honor the night before. He is survived by his mother, his younger sister, and his girlfriend. If you would like to support his family, you can donate to the GoFundMe set up by Justin Jarrett '19. Contact newspaper@hsc.edu for the link.

Ice Storm, cont'd

tration plans to work with external experts to take additional steps to monitor the health of trees, including removing damaged limbs. Of course, after the power had been restored, classes resumed as normal. Members of the student body may have heard that the College has not canceled classes since the Civil War, and perhaps that was true, but Sabbatini

is unsure. Certainly, classes could not have continued in a safe manner without power, and that was the main reason behind the cancellation. Another rumor floating around the student body was that should the outage persist long enough, spring break would be canceled. Sabbatini made it clear in his interview that this would be an absolute last resort,

and the days lost were not enough to force H-SC's administration to take such a drastic measure. All the rumors about breaking streaks and lost breaks aside, Sabbatini would like to thank every student member of our campus community for our understanding and cooperation in dealing with a once-in-a-generation ice storm.



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger Staff, circa 1979. Courtesy of the Kaleidoscope

Join the team.

Write for *The Tiger*.

Contact newspaper@hsc.edu for more information.

Custodial Staff, cont'd

Hampden-Sydney does not pay many of our B&G employees the wages they deserve.

The dollar's value has changed in the past five years. Many members of our custodial staff have worked at Hampden Sydney for over ten years. It is surprising that the H-SC administration has, at the very least, not increased the wages of the custodial staff proportionately to the decreasing value of the dollar.

At the first general student government meeting of the 2020-21 year after the new officials were elected, President Larry Stimpert told a story. He explained how he received a phone call from an alumnus this summer, when all the police protests were happening.

Stimpert said that he had an enlightening conversation with this alumnus. He told Stimpert that he was disappointed by how he had seen Hampden-Sydney students treat the custodial staff.

Stimpert made it a point to emphasize how much this revelation upset him. Hearing this story was upsetting to the Student Senate, the CAC, and the Student Court. Members of each

organization moved to further discuss this issue and began to deliberate possible forms of retribution.

After some poking around, several members of the student senate realized that our custodial staff is severely underpaid. Their duties have been virtually the same for many years, and it is unfair how the monetary compensation they receive for doing their job has not remained the same.

The cost of living in the Farmville area is increasing, and with the recent inflation, the wage our school pays its custodial staff may soon be insufficient to live on. Increasing the wages of our custodial staff would incentivize them to be even more productive than they already are.

Perhaps an increase in our custodial staff's wages would even benefit the school because they would see an increase in quality and efficiency from Buildings and Grounds.

Ultimately, the responsibility of solving this problem should not rest on the shoulders of the student leaders. Hampden-Sydney has shown that it does not wish to fulfill many of the wishes and opinions held by ma-

jority of the students.

Many of these ideas would only improve the quality of student life, but the idea of increasing custodial wages transcends beyond the student body. My peers and I are unable to "will" this important social and economic change into existence. It is the duty of the college administration to make a change since they are the only ones with the power to do so. As a student leader, I was humbled to hear Stimpert's frustration about the poor past treatment of our custodial staff.

After thinking about his words for several months, I began to wonder why his frustrations did not materialize into a solution. The President's house, Middlecourt, is meticulously tended to by Buildings and Grounds staff daily.

Increasing their wages would be a positive change in our community, and I believe Stimpert would like to see it happen. I hope the college administration can work with the leadership of Buildings and Grounds to pay our custodial staff the salary they deserve.

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

Founded 31 January 1920
by J. B. Wall '19

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The Hampden-Sydney Tiger is a student newspaper serving the community of Hampden-Sydney and operating independently of the College. The Tiger is printed biweekly by The Farmville Herald.

The opinions expressed in The Tiger belong to those expressing them and in no way reflect the official stance of The Tiger.

We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at newspaper@hsc.edu.

NEWS



VA General Assembly Mandates Raise in Minimum Wage: How Will H-SC Adjust?

BENJAMIN HAGER '23
STAFF WRITER

In its 2020 session, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation to gradually increase the state minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by January 1st, 2026. The legislation, found in 2020 Virginia House Bill 395 and Senate Bill 7, originally stipulated a preliminary minimum wage increase to \$9.50 per hour by January 1st, 2021, but this increase was later postponed until May 1st, 2021. As it currently stands, the state minimum wage will increase to \$9.50/hr on May 1st, 2021; \$11.00/hr on January 1st, 2022; \$12.00/hr on January 1st, 2023; \$13.50/hr on January 1st, 2025; and \$15.00/hr on January 1st, 2026.

In an effort to understand how the College will adjust to the coming minimum wage increases, I reached out to Ken Copeland, Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance at Hampden-Sydney College, with the following questions:

Benjamin Hager: Where will the extra money come from? Other programs? Tuition increases? Or will the college have to let go of certain workers instead?

Ken Copeland: We do

not anticipate layoffs as a result of the minimum wage increases. Since the first increase will take effect in May, there will be an impact on this years' fiscal year budget (FY20/21) and we hope to be able to absorb that impact through savings in other budget areas. The budget for next year (FY 21/22) is currently being constructed.

BH: Is there a set plan or formula to deal with this, or is it more of an open question?

KC: It's more of an open question but the reality is there is always a consideration for salary compression. Those employees on the lower end of the wage scale will, by law, be paid the federal mandated minimum wage – there's no way around that nor would the College ever propose to do otherwise. What occurs though is the employees who were above that minimum will now be somewhat disenfranchised if their salaries don't also increase – keeping salaries for various skill sets separated by the same margins as before the new minimum was instituted. This “ripple effect” will have to be considered more broadly in the budget for next fiscal year.

BH: Who makes these decisions?

KC: The VP for Business Affairs and Fi-

nance, in conjunction with the Controller and other Business Office staff begins with a draft budget. This draft is shared with the Campus Budget and Planning Committee in the spring and then presented to the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees for their review and ultimate approval. The new budget for the fiscal year has to be approved before each new year begins on July 1.

BH: Will student jobs still be available in the same quantities they currently are, and how will work-study programs be affected?

KC: We often have more available spots than we have applicants for, so we do not anticipate any impact on jobs or work study as they pertain to the imminent increases in the minimum wage. 2021 House Bill 2270, a bill that amends the minimum wage increases found in § 40.1-28.10 of the Virginia Code, proposed a further delay of the \$9.50/hr increase to January 1st, 2022, with the dates of all other wage increases being delayed by one calendar year. House Bill 2270 was left in the House Labor and Commerce Committee for review on February 5th, 2021 and has yet to be brought back to the floor for a vote.

Up in Smoke: Student Senate Fails To Pass Cannabis Resolution

LUCIO CHAVEZ '22
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

During the Senate meeting on March 1st, 2021, Student Senator Varun Yerramsetti introduced a resolution that would recommend that students not be punished if found in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

The resolution sought to comply with Virginia law—bill SB 2 in particular—by “recommending that negative disciplinary action as called for by The Key, The Code of Student Conduct, and the Office of Student Affairs does not occur... by an individual at least 21 years of age is no longer a criminal 96 offence.” (Student Sen. Cannabis Resolution)

Virginia Senate Bill 2 came into effect in the commonwealth on July 2020. While the bill did not legalize the consumption of marijuana, it reduced the penalty, under offenses involving the possession of marijuana, to

a maximum of a \$25 fine. In its essence, the Virginia bill made the penalties of possession of marijuana similar to the possession of alcohol. The state legislature voted to legalize the usage of marijuana in earl February. However, the law will not come into effect until 2024.

During the March 1st meeting, many student senators questioned whether it was proper for the

arise with the image of the college by passing the bill. Student senator Varun Yerramsetti '21 explained that a large portion of the student body supports the passage of the resolution while student senator Noah Moore '23 questioned the amount of support that the resolution has in the college community. Following the fate of Yerramsetti's resolution, many

... many student senators questioned whether it was proper for the body to pass such a contentious resolution . . .

body to pass such a contentious resolution, making it clearer that the resolution would not pass. One student senator questioned whether the Student Senate had the power to direct what circumstances the Student Court deems punishable. Another argument brought forward dealt with the problems that could

questioned whether the college community was ready to socially accept the usage of medical or recreational marijuana. Yerramsetti will be re-introducing the resolution once again in an attempt that he will be able to change enough minds in the Student Senate to pass.



Photo courtesy Lucio Chavez '22

Student Finds H-SC Chapter of the Alexander Hamilton Society

DANIEL NIVENS '24
STAFF WRITER

The Alexander Hamilton Society is a national, pre-professional organization geared toward students interested in careers in national security and foreign policy. As of November 9, 2020, Hampden-Sydney College has a chapter founded by Kevin Canny '21 under the guidance of Lt. Col. L. Rucker Snead '81. Lt. Col. Snead said that he “realized several years

ago that we needed a pre-professional club on campus for our students who are interested in pursuing careers in the national security arena.”

The AHS will be that club, making opportunities available for students that Canny acknowledged would have been a boon to him as an underclassman. The Tiger communicated with both gentlemen to learn about what they hope the organization will do for students. As a club with

a national affiliation, the opportunities AHS offers are two-fold. On campus, the H-SC chapter will offer group discus-

“ . . . we needed a pre-professional club on campus for our students who are interested in pursuing careers in the national security arena.”

sions, reading groups, and public speaking events. Canny hopes that these events will “[facilitate] a dialogue

on various issues within the national security and foreign policy” that will be “unique and intellectually stimulating.”

The first discussion group, held at 6 PM on March 3, discussed President Biden's foreign policy advances

American interests. Nationally, the AHS offers various conferences and events that are meant to both educate and further networking in a career path that is often difficult to begin. These include a Summer Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., a seminar in D.C. to learn “the foundational framework of Hamiltonian Studies,” and the Reagan National Defense Forum in California. The national organization will also aid in career-preparation

and advancement, including networking opportunities, résumé assistance, and a weekly bulletin with internship opportunities listed. Anyone interested in a career in national security or in intellectual discussion about complex topics in foreign policy is encouraged to join. Students who are interested in future leadership opportunities in this exciting new club are encouraged to get involved this year.

OPINION

Crossed Wires:
Why Is Computer Science
So Unpopular at Hampden-Sydney?

VARUN YERRAMSETTI '21
STAFF WRITER

Students at large schools with reputed computer science programs usually learn in giant lecture halls. They do not have the luxury of sitting in

Koether retired in the 2020 school year, and Valente and Hemler are not far behind. It will be difficult to replace the value and merit these men bring to Hampden-Sydney. Good computer science professors are in high demand across

ety has come to rely on technology to a degree that our predecessors may not have foreseen. Our dependance on the internet has increased over the past year due to the pandemic, and experts do not foresee a decline in the use of remote-work technology.

The power outages that recently affected Prince Edward county prompted the college administration to cancel classes, partially due to our community's newfound subservience to technology and the internet. It is interesting why the college has chosen not to invest more money in computer science education.

The class of 2021 has a mere four students with a major declared in computer

For years, the computer science lab was in an unkempt, disheveled room.

classroom with only three to four other students. Students at state universities are taught computer science by TAs (teaching assistants), who are merely graduate students only slightly older than their pupils! Hampden-Sydney has a little known advantage in STEM education due to the student-teacher ratio.

The college was lucky to have found Dr. Robb Koether, Dr. Tom Valente, and Dr. Paul Hemler (right). Combined, these three men kept the computer science program at Hampden-Sydney alive for several decades. All three of these men have dedicated long hours towards helping their students succeed and deserve to enjoy their retirement plans.

America, and it is difficult to convince talent to relocate to Farmville, Virginia. If the College was willing to allocate more of its resources to the computer science program,



Photo courtesy Varun Yerramsetti '21

potential tenure-track candidates could be offered more competitive salaries, making the move to rural Virginia seem more enticing.

In the twenty-first century, soci-

science. Perhaps some potential students are deterred by the difficulty. Others may find the mathematical component of comput-

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Rejecting Populism:
Donald Trump and His
False Conservatism

PATRICK STRITE '24
STAFF WRITER

If you watched any of the impeachment proceedings you may have been tricked into believing that impeachment is the same as a criminal trial. The defense provided by Trump's lawyers heavily centered around the argument that Trump's verbiage did not amount to incitement—a position that they are more than likely right on.

The argument would be devastatingly insurmountable if impeachable offenses had to be criminal. The truth is they do not. Impeachment is not a defined legalistic standard. Instead, it boils down to a seemingly simple question: What is enough for a president to lose their job? And to be blunt, the reluctance displayed by former President Donald Trump to ultimately

deliver a quasi-condemnation while the United States Capitol is under active siege should be enough for a president to lose their job.

The problem is the senators who voted to acquit know this already. Sen. Ted Cruz went to Princeton before going to Harvard Law. Credentialism is cringey I know, but that's not the point. My point is to act as if Senator Cruz has never read any James Madison is silly.

Senator Cruz, like all politicians, is smart enough to play the game that is politics. For politicians, the goal of this game is reelection, and for most Republican senators the easiest path to the end goal is kissing up to Trump.

The inherent selfishness of these senators blew away the chances of the one thing that conservatives need the most: barring Trump from running for president ever again.

The damage Trump has done to the branding of conservatism is indescribable. For conservatives like myself who view conservatism as the preservation of the founding philosophy of small government and classical liberalism, hopes for an era akin to that of the Goldwater years seem bleak. Trump has turned the modern conception of conservatism into a form of populism. The last thing the party needs is for him to run for president again.

The fight to reclaim conservatism from frauds like Trump will be difficult, but there is hope. Take for example Adam Kinzinger whose district went 65% in his favor while only 56% for Trump. There are plenty of other examples of these instances. They provide the evidence that there is still an appetite for conservatism amongst the American people.

To Mask or
Not To Mask
(When You're Alone
in a Building)

BEMJAMIN HAGER '23
STAFF WRITER

I want to start out by saying that I am not trying to undermine or argue against mask wearing in general. Personally, mask-wearing doesn't really bother me. Most of the time, when I exit buildings, I don't even think about taking my mask off.

Furthermore, I am not trying to attack campus policies in any way or even necessarily propose a change to mask-wearing rules on campus. However, in the making of such rules, I also think we should all be aware of the risks (or lack thereof) of not wearing masks when alone in an academic building. Personally, I could be persuaded either way. Let me explain.

There are two primary concerns with not wearing a mask while alone in a building: contracting or transmitting COVID-19 via airborne particles or via surface contamination. According to the CDC, "COVID-19 spreads very easily from person to person... can sometimes be spread by airborne transmission... [and] spreads less commonly through contact with

contaminated surfaces [known as fomites]." If you ask me, aside from knowing that COVID-19 spreads primarily from close contact with infected people, the above information isn't terribly useful.

My question is, how likely is it for COVID-19 to be transmitted via lingering air particles or contaminated surfaces? The evidence for COVID-19 being transmitted via surfaces is scant; according to a paper published February 1st, 2021 in Nature, "Hundreds of studies of COVID-19 transmission have been published since the pandemic began, yet there is thought to be only one that reports transmission through a contaminated surface..."

In this particular case, it is thought that the virus spread after a Chinese man blew his nose on his hand and touched a button on an elevator at his apartment. Shortly afterwards, another man touched the same button and flossed his teeth with a toothpick "immediately after."

If this is the

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Photo courtesy Patrick Garifo '23

Pauley, cont'd

search, and scholarly activity" according to the college's official website. The college's website also said that in addition to this upgrade, the historic sightline will be restored between Cushing Hall and Venable Hall. Additionally, the college's website noted that the location of the new science building shows the college's commitment to the sciences, the research

that students continue to conduct, and to H-SC's traditions.

H a m p -

... the location of the new science building shows the College's commitment to the sciences, to the research that students continue to conduct, and to H-SC traditions.

den-Sydney's first science building, Bagby

Hall, was taken down so that the Pauley Science Center could be constructed in its place. This was not an easy decision for the college's leadership to make, but Bagby Hall

would have required numerous renova-

SPORTS

Odd Moments in the NBA: The 5-Man Warriors Squad

JACOB MYERS '21
SPORTS EDITOR

The NBA has existed since 1946—during these 75 years, strange things are bound to happen. Some of the more popular events are Malice at the Palace, Tracy McGrady’s 13 points in 35 seconds, and Elgin Baylor’s horrible championship luck. Malice at the Palace was truly a historic moment—Ron Artest, now known as

Metta World-Peace, was known for being one of the biggest hotheads in the NBA.

During that notorious game, he climbs into the stands and gets into a fistfight with a fan for throwing a beer at him. While this event is certainly odd, this series seeks to dive into some of the lesser-known moments in NBA history. To me, some of these events prove the existence of pure luck—good or bad.

In April of

2010, the Warriors are set to play a game against the Portland Trailblazers—however, this game was going to be inevitably challenging for the Warriors. Due to injuries, the team only had 6-players available. While a team can technically forfeit before the game begins, the practice has never been executed. Therefore, they played.

How can it get any worse? Well, it did. During the game, the Warriors center,



Photo courtesy Pexels

Chris Hunter, was injured and had to sit the rest of the game. The last remaining player on the bench, Devean George, must take his place. So, the Warriors team now had five players. There was no opportunity to rest.

It doesn’t stop there—it got even weirder. Later, Devean George fouled out. However, now the refs were faced with another issue: the team

couldn’t compete with only four players. The refs then decided to allow him to play, with every further foul counting as an automatic technical.

And despite all the poor luck, the Warriors faced that fateful evening, the Warriors won. Steph Curry dropped 42 points and 8 assists. Monta Ellis, the starting shooting guard, dropped 34 points. Despite

the horrible injury and referee luck, the Warriors somehow prevailed, with four different players playing 48-minutes. The Blazers shot horribly against an exhausted Warriors team. It was a game that displayed incredibly poor luck for the Warriors—and despite the challenges, the team used its emotion to turn an unlikely victory.

It’s Baseball Season!

GIOVANNI NEEDHAM '21
STAFF WRITER

In a month, we will get to see baseball players suiting up again and preparing for the upcoming season. I’m glad we had a season last year, but I think we are all ready to get back to a season that resembles normalcy. The big headlines going into the upcom-

ing season include the number of big named players that have found new homes. If you’re a Mets fan, this off-season must be one of the best off-seasons in recent years. After Steven Cohen became the new majority owner of the Mets, displacing the dysfunctional Wilpons, the Mets got their offseason going quickly, making one of the first big moves of the off-season after signing James McCann, the second-best catcher on the market.

Watching Lindor play up the middle with second basemen

and he has been rated as an above-average pitch-framer, making Jacob deGrom that much scarier. They acquired Shortstop Francisco Lindor, who has been the best shortstop in the game for the last few years. This was one of the biggest trades of the offseason.

Watching Lindor play up the middle with second basemen East—especially once Noah Syndergaard comes back in the middle of the season. The Mets look to be a team on the rise and expect them to play some October baseball this year. Another team that added to its already dependable rotation was the San Diego Padres.

They were the most active team during the trade deadline last season, and the moves kept coming during this offseason. There hasn’t been a team that has done more than what San Diego has done. After being pulled early from the biggest game of his life, Blake Snell looks to return to the Fall Classic, this time in a Padres uniform.

The former AL Cy Young award winner has been one of the best strikeout artists in the league, and after a revenue-sapping season last year, the penny-pinching Tampa Bay Rays had

The Mets look to be a team on the rise and expect them to play some October baseball this year.

ing season include the number of big named players that have found new homes.

If you’re a Mets fan, this off-season must be one of the best off-seasons in recent years. After Steven Cohen became the new majority owner of the Mets, displacing the dysfunctional Wilpons, the Mets got their offseason going quickly, making one of the first big moves of the off-season after signing James McCann, the second-best catcher on the market.

McCann was an All-Star in 2019 for the White Sox. He is an above-average run producer at the catcher’s position,

Jeff McNeil is going to be fun to watch, and the two of them will no doubt be one of the best double-play combos in the game. In that trade, the Mets were able to pick up starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco, who would pitch behind Jacob deGrom

The former AL Cy Young award winner has been one of the best strikeout artists in the league

and Marcus Stroman, giving themselves one of the strongest starting rotations in the National League

to let his team-friendly contract go, and now the Padres will

Continue reading on page 6

Computer Science, cont’d

er science to be arduous and mundane. A plausible explanation for why the majority of H-SC students choose to pursue other degrees is because the College has devoted more resources to those degrees. For years, the computer science lab was in an unkempt, disheveled room on the main floor of Bagby Hall. Many departments

were shuffled around when the administration decided to tear down Bagby Hall, but the Computer Science department was given the “short end of the stick.” Valente and Hemler were given basement offices, and the computer science lab was moved to the basement of Johns Auditorium. Unsurprisingly, the department was also treated un-

fairly in the planning of the new building. The Computer Science department was originally going to be given a “closet” in the new Pauley Science Center, but after enough arguing from Hemler, they relented. As of the date this article is published, the computer science lab will be given the space it deserved in the new building.

Masking Indoors, cont’d

COVID-19 Survival Rates (by age group):

• 18-29 year-olds:	99.96%
• 30-39 year-olds:	99.88%
• 40-49 year-olds:	99.67%
• 50-64 year-olds:	98.76%
• 65-74 year-olds:	95.19%
• 75-84 year-olds:	88.08%
• 85+ year-olds:	76.66%

only recorded case (as of 2/1/21) of suspected transmission of COVID-19 via a contaminated surface, color me skeptical. Let’s assume, for the sake of argument, that COVID-19 was transmitted in the way described above. It required a man blowing his nose on his hand, touching an elevator button immediately afterwards, another man touching the same elevator button shortly thereafter, and then immediately flossing his teeth with a toothpick in order for the virus to be transmitted via a contaminated surface.

I’m not proposing that it’s safe to walk around without a mask licking doorknobs, but transmission via fomites, based on the research I’ve looked at, ought to be the least of our concerns. As for contamination via lingering air particles, the evidence isn’t much better.

According to the CDC, “The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus. Respiratory droplets are produced during exhalation... and may be divided into two basic categories based on how

long they can remain suspended in the air:

- *Larger droplets, some of which are visible and that fall out of the air rapidly within seconds to minutes while close to the source*
- *Smaller droplets and particles (formed when small droplets dry very quickly in the airstream) that can remain suspended for many minutes to hours and travel far from the source on air currents.*

Once respiratory droplets are exhaled and as they move outward from the source, their concentration decreases through fallout from the air (largest droplets first, smaller later) combined with dilution of the remaining smaller droplets and particles into the growing volume of air they encounter.”

The same CDC webpage also reads, “There is no evidence of efficient spread (i.e., routine, rapid spread) to people far away or who enter a space hours after an infectious person was there.” This page also says that cases of airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 involved “closed spaces,” “prolonged exposure to respiratory particles,” and “inadequate ventilation or air handling.”

I was unable

to find a citation for this or other articles that described such cases, and I certainly wasn’t able to find any statistics for cases of airborne transmission that didn’t involve being in the same room as the infected person at the same time. I’m not trying to suggest that transmission can’t or doesn’t happen this way; I’m merely saying that it seems there is little recorded evidence of such transmission (though it seems more plausible than transmission via fomites). I understand the idea of taking extra precautions; as is evident from the numbers above, COVID-19 can be deadly.

Above the age of 65, I start to get nervous. 85+ year-olds, with a survival rate just over 75%, really have a reason to be cautious. However, given that the vast majority of people who use our buildings on campus are students under the age of 23, I wouldn’t be that worried if individuals who were alone in a big, open building, such as the library, didn’t wear their masks while not around other people.

Note: I am not suggesting that students should break the rules by not wearing masks in the library; Bortz Library policy requires that all patrons wear masks at all times while in the building. What I am saying is that if masks weren’t required when patrons are alone in big open buildings on campus, the odds of anyone catching the virus are low enough that I wouldn’t lose sleep over it.

LIFE

Baseball,
cont'd

reap the benefits that the southpaw will bring. He's teaming up with Yu Darvish, who had a 2.01 ERA last year, backed by a 2.7 Wins Above Replacement and a strikeout rate of 11.01 per nine innings. The Padres lost Steve Clevenger, their marquee acquisition at the trade deadline to injuries, and he won't be able to bring his talents to the field this season—however, the Padres made up for his loss. The Padres continued their quest to fortify their rotation when they traded for former Pittsburgh Pirate right-hander Joe Musgrove in a three-team deal.

Musgrove came off a season in which he started 8 games and struck out 55 batters over 39.2 frames. In his short stint last season, Musgrove pitched to an ERA+ of 116, meaning he performed 16 percent better than the under club control through age 35. It is also the third-largest contract signed in baseball behind Mookie Betts' and Mike Trout's contract extensions. Not to be forgotten are the Toronto Blue Jays, who have also had a busy offseason. They grabbed the best outfielder on the market with their signing of George Springer. That is going to be a huge loss for the Astros—however, the Blue Jays are going to have an explosive offense this season. If Springer continues to lead off for the Jays as he did for the Astros, he would bat in front of players like Marcus Semien, who the Jays also picked up this off-season on a one-year deal. Semien is just one season away from a top 3 finish in the MVP race in the AL. Behind Semien, the loud bats like Bo Bichette, Teoscar Hernandez, who had an OPS of

Arenado finally gets to play for a contender now that he has been shipped out to St. Louis. The Cardinals swung a trade to acquire Arenado that will put baseball's best third basemen across the diamond of one of the best at first in Paul Goldschmidt. The two should pair up to form one of the best duos in any lineup in the game. Arenado is a 5-time All-Star, an 8 time Gold Glove

award winner, and a 4-time silver slugger award winner. The Cardinals made a huge upgrade, as they finally acquired the superstar they lacked—they were even able to get the Rockies to cover 50 million of Arenado's contract. Additionally, the Cardinals didn't give up any elite prospects in the deal. Right now, it seems like the Cardinals got a steal. Lastly, the reigning

World Series Champions must have felt the gap between themselves and the Padres close up significantly, so they went out and grabbed the biggest name on the free-agent market and the reigning 2020 reigning NL Cy Young Award winner to a 3 year, 102-million-dollar contract. It has two opt-out clauses after the 2021 and 2022 seasons. The Dodgers were already the best of the best,

and now they have fortified a rotation that already had Clayton Kershaw, Walker Buehler, top prospect Dustin May, and a returning David Price after he opted out of the 2020 shortened season. Their rotation is stacked, and they also brought Justin Turner back. I cannot wait to see the Padres and the Dodgers go at it this season, but the Dodgers have to be the favorites to win it all again in 2021.

Christian's Corner
Questions for Christians, Answered by a Christian:
What is Lent?

ISAAC WHITFIELD '21
STAFF WRITER

My fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, Lent has begun! A time of spiritual affliction and fasting has begun and will continue till Easter. The body of Christ honors this hallowed tradition of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. These three traditions will help us to understand and, God willing, have the best Lent yet.

Prayer is the duty and call of every Christian. Our blessed Lord commands us to pray. "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). St. Paul also commands us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This is our main way of communing with, and giving glory to, the Father. By cultivating the virtue of daily prayer, a Christian can receive

this daily need of grace from God, even if he does not feel anything. Brothers and sisters, we are not worshipping feelings, we are worshipping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. If you are going through a time of spiritual dryness, keep praying. Do not give up, God loves you and will give you a reprieve. We must have hope and believe that the bounty of the merits of Christ is just beyond this desert of dryness. On to the second.

Fasting is the willful and acknowledged abstention of some object of comfort or pleasure. This goes beyond food as well. One can fast from just about anything. If you notice that you seem to choose Netflix over evening prayer, I would suggest you give that up for Lent. The whole point is to unite yourself with the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness as much as possible. As

Christ fasted for forty days, so too should we fast for forty days. Anything from food to video games will do. Now I would also advise caution, if coffee helps you get up in the morning and helps you concentrate, maybe do not give that up. Do not make others suffer because of your fast. Pick wisely brothers, nothing stinks more than giving up a fast halfway through and just sticking with chocolate for another Lent. On to the third.

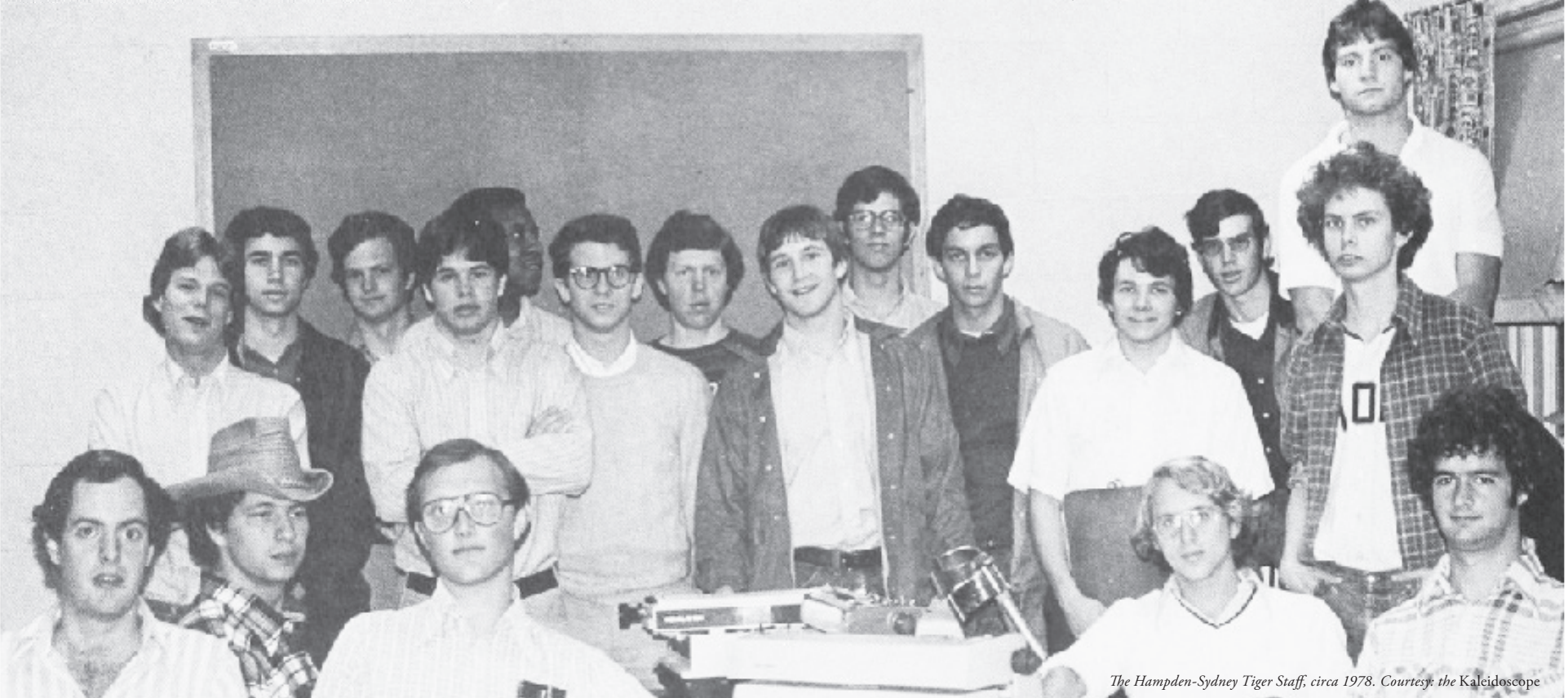
Almsgiving is somewhat the opposite of fasting in that you add something for Lent. Say you want to care for the poor more this Lent, and you resolve to go once or twice a week to a homeless shelter for Lent. This is giving alms. Or maybe you add an extra prayer after meals, this too is almsgiving. It can also be a larger tithe to your church. One must prayerfully discern the will of

God for oneself for this liturgical period. This can be the best Lent ever. You can grow in your faith and find God in the wilderness, just as Moses did. God tends to find us in our hurts and deserts. I urge you brothers, seek the Kingdom. You do not have to find it, just look. God will hear you and come to your help. Let us pray for one another that God will give us the grace to finish this Lent strong, and to find a new wellspring of faith, hope, and love for God and neighbor. God love you.

Of course, this is just my humble interpretation. There are over a billion Christians, each with their own views. I am always open to discussion and criticism. Please email me more questions at whitfieldi21@hsc.edu, and I will endeavor to answer them as best as I can. *Non nobis Domine.*

I feel bad for the pitchers
in the American East.

average major league starter last year. The Padres are bringing Dinelson Lamet and Chris Paddack back to field one of the best rotations, if not the best rotation in the game. Oh, and the Padres extended their superstar shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. to a 14-year 340-million-dollar deal. It's a contract that will keep him .919 and an OPS+ of 146 last season, and other names like Vladdy Guerrero Jr., Cavan Biggio, and Lourdes Gurriel. The young core of this Blue Jays lineup has been given two proven, veteran bats to beef up an already explosive offense. I feel bad for the pitchers in the American East. Additionally, Nolan



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger Staff, circa 1978. Courtesy: the Kaleidoscope

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